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General

Mozambique is located in the SE part of Africa. It is bounded on the E by the Indian Ocean, on the S by South Africa, and on the N by Tanzania.

The coast is mostly sandy, with several lagoons and inlets. The broad coastal plain rises to central plateaus and mountains

stand along the W border. The country is crossed by a number of important rivers.

The climate varies from tropical to subtropical in all areas except the high plateaus and mountains. Warmer temperatures prevail during the rainy season (October to May). The rainfall is irregular, and some areas, particularly in the S, are subject to severe droughts and floods.

Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region A) is in effect. See Chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.

Cautions

Sandwaves

Sandwaves are similar to sand dunes on land; the action of the water movement forms the sand or gravel seabed into a

series of ridges. Fields of sandwaves may be several miles in extent, varying in size from mere ripples to waves of up to 20m in amplitude. The waves forming the primary pattern may be several miles long. They usually lie nearly at right angles to the main direction of water movement, but small waves are sometimes found lying parallel to it. Secondary patterns are usually superimposed on the primary pattern, often at an angle; it is where the crests of the patterns coincide that the shallowest depths can be expected.

At the entrance to Sofala Bay, Mozambique, sandwaves of up to 26m high have been reported to exist.

Currency

The official unit of currency is the metical (plural meticaís), consisting of 100 centavos.

Government



Flag of Mozambique

Mozambique, a former colony of Portugal, achieved independence on June 25, 1975. Under the Constitution adopted at independence, the directing power of the state lied in the Front for Liberation of Mozambique (FRELIMO), the sole legal political party. However, an armed insurgency led by the Mozambique National Resistance (RENAMO) continued until 1992. In 1990, a new constitution legalized opposition parties, provided for secret elections, and formed a bill of rights.

The President, directly elected for a 5-year term, holds executive power and governs with the assistance of an appointed Council of Ministers. The parliament consists of a 250-member National Assembly serving a 5-year term.

The country is divided into ten provinces, each under a Governor, which are subdivided into 112 districts.

The legal system is based on Portuguese civil law and customary law.

The capital of Mozambique is Maputo (formerly Lourenço Marques).

Holidays

The following holidays are observed:

New Year's Day	January 1
Heroes' Day	February 3
Day of the Mozambique Woman	April 7
Labor Day	May 1
Independence Day	June 25
Revolution Day	September 25

Christmas Day (December 25) may also be observed at Maputo and other ports.

Industries

Although the country is mostly rural, there is some substantial industry in and around Maputo and Beira, mainly in steel, engineering, textiles, food processing, docks, and railways. The chief exports are cashews, cotton, sugar, mineral products, timber products, tea, copra, and coal.

Languages

The official language is Portuguese. There are many tribal languages.

Time Zone

The Time Zone description is BRAVO (-2). Daylight Savings Time is not observed.

World Time Zone Chart

<http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/ref/pdf/802801.pdf>

U.S. Embassy

The U.S. Embassy is situated at Avenida Kenneth Kuanda 193, Maputo.

The mailing address is P.O. Box 783, Maputo.

U. S. Embassy Mozambique Home Page

<http://www.usembassy-maputo.gov.mz>